

# Texas Veterans Commission Meeting Minutes

Fourth Quarterly Meeting (FY 2013)  
August 7, 2013

## I. Call to Order

Chairman Cantu called to order the Fourth Quarterly Meeting of the Texas Veterans Commission (TVC) at 9:01 a.m. on August 7, 2013, in Room 170 of the Stephen F. Austin Building at 1700 North Congress Avenue, Austin, Texas 78701.

The following Commissioners, constituting a quorum, were present:

Eliseo "Al" Cantu, Chairman  
James H. Scott, Vice Chairman  
Richard A. McLeon, IV, Secretary  
Daniel P. Moran, Member  
J.K. "Jake" Ellzey, Member

Also present was Thomas P. Palladino, Executive Director.

Also present: See the attached list.

Secretary McLeon gave the opening prayer. Vice Chairman Scott led the Pledge of Allegiance to the United States flag and Commissioner Moran led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Texas flag.

Chairman Cantu welcomed visitors to the meeting. He introduced TVC new employees:

**Justin Greiner**  
Veterans Education – Program Specialist II Hazlewood  
Started on August 1<sup>st</sup> working at TVC HQs.

**Yolanda Moten**  
Fund for Veterans' Assistance – Grant Coordinator II  
Started on August 5<sup>th</sup> working at TVC HQs.

## II. Public Comment

None.

## III. Approval of Minutes of the Third Quarterly meeting held May 8, 2013

The minutes were previously distributed to the Commissioners.

MOTION: Approve the minutes of the Third Quarterly Meeting held on May 8, 2013, as presented.

MADE BY: Vice Chairman Scott

SECONDED BY: Commissioner Moran

ACTION: The motion passed unanimously.

**Approval of Minutes of the Special Meeting held May 20, 2013**

The minutes were previously distributed to the Commissioners.

MOTION: Approve the minutes of the Special Meeting held on May 20, 2013, as presented.

MADE BY: Secretary McLeon

SECONDED BY: Vice Chairman Scott

ACTION: The motion passed unanimously.

**IV. Election of Vice Chairman and Secretary of the Commission**

Nomination was made on election of Vice Chairman of the Commission.

MOTION: To elect Commissioner James H. Scott, as Vice Chairman.

MADE BY: Secretary McLeon

ACTION: The motion passed unanimously.

Nomination was made on election of Secretary of the Commission.

MOTION: To elect Commissioner Richard McLeon, as Secretary.

MADE BY: Vice Chairman Scott

ACTION: The motion passed unanimously.

**V. Report, Presentation and/or Action by Representatives of the Veterans Communication Advisory Committee**

Jim Cunningham provided a summary of activities of the committee since its last report to the Commission.

**VI. Report, Presentation and/or Action regarding Texas Veterans Commission Excellence in Media Awards**

Jim Cunningham provided a summary of the awards and noted 16 nominations had been received. The award recipients recommended are:

Television - Mike Warren, My Fox Austin  
Print – Uncounted Casualties  
Photojournalism – For ex-GIs, next battle is finding job  
Radio – Texas Vets making Noise Over Tuition Benefits Threat

MOTION: Approve the recommendations for the Excellence in Media Awards.

MADE BY: Vice Chairman Scott

SECONDED BY: Commissioner Ellzey

ACTION: The motion passed unanimously.

**VII. Report, Presentation and/or Action by Representatives of the Fund for Veterans' Assistance Advisory Committee**

General Tom Smith was excused and Sarah Tillman provided a summary of activities of the committee since its last report to the Commission.

Chairman Cantu, Executive Director Thomas Palladino and Kathy Wood presented a certificate of appreciation to David Smith, departing member of the FVA Advisory Committee.

**VIII. Report, Presentation and/or Action regarding Texas Veterans Commission Fund for Veterans' Assistance Community Partnership Award**

Kathy Wood provided background information on the Award and noted 4 nominations had been received:

Communities in Schools of Central Texas  
Hidalgo County Community Supervision & Corrections Department  
Project MEND  
Samaritan Center for Counseling & Pastoral Care

Staff requested Commission approval to award Samaritan Center for Counseling and

Pastoral Care the 2013 Community Partnership Award.

MOTION: Approve the recommendation for the Fund for Veterans' Assistance Community Partnership Award.

MADE BY: Vice Chairman Scott

SECONDED BY: Commissioner Ellzey

ACTION: The motion passed unanimously.

**IX. Report, Presentation and/or Action by Representatives of the Veterans County Service Officer Advisory Committee**

Jimmy DeFoor, Chairman of the Committee provided a summary of activities of the committee since its last report to the Commission.

**X. Report, Presentation and/or Action by Representatives of the Veterans Employment and Training Advisory Committee**

John McKinney, Committee Member, provided a summary on behalf of Chairman Richard Hatfield about the activities of the committee since its last report to the Commission.

**XI. Report, Presentation and/or Action regarding Texas Veterans Commission Employer of Veterans Awards**

John McKinny provided background information on the awards and noted 36 nominations had been received:

The following employers were recommended by the committee:

- Large Employer – Locke Protective Services
- Medium Employer – Lackland Holdings, LLC
- Small Employer – Stewart & Stevenson
- Disabled Veteran Employer – M1 Support Services
- Extra Mile – Heroes Night Out/Green Zone Resource Center

MOTION: Approve the recommendations for the Employer of Veterans Awards.

MADE BY: Commissioner Ellzey

SECONDED BY: Commissioner Moran

ACTION: The motion passed unanimously.

**XII. Report, Presentation and/or Action regarding replacement and removal of Advisory Committee members**

This item was tabled for a future meeting.

**XIII. Report, Presentation and/or Action regarding Executive Director Report**

Thomas Palladino, Executive Director, reported on the state of the Agency and provided a review of his visits with staff, public speaking events, future meetings, accolades, and general information items.

**XIV. Report, Presentation and/or Action regarding Legislative Update**

Jeff Williford, Legislative Liaison, provided a summary of enactments of veteran-related bills to Commissioners and reported on the budgetary and legislative accomplishments.

**XV. Report, Presentation and/or Action on agency programs and divisions**

The Commissioners reviewed the Quarterly Program Reports that were previously provided. Directors were provided the opportunity to brief the Commission on any new items or highlight significant items.

- A. Jim Richman, Director of Claims Representation and Counseling, reported on major activities and accomplishments and upcoming events.
- B. Shawn Deabay, Director of Veterans Employment Services, reported on major activities and accomplishments.
- C. Cynthia Rosas, Veterans Education Program Specialist, reported on major activities and accomplishments. She also reported that compliance visits by TVC staff were at 90% as of July 18, 2013.
- D. Kathy Wood, Director, Fund for Veterans' Assistance (FVA), reported on major activities and accomplishments. She stated the total number of veterans, dependents and surviving spouses served since September 1, 2012 was 5,730.
- E. Cruz Montemayor, Chief Administrative Officer, reported on major activities and accomplishments. He also provided a Fall Conference update to the Commissioners.
- F. Chip Osborne, Chief Financial Officer, reported on major activities and accomplishments. He stated that all financial reports have been submitted by required due dates.

**XVI. Report, Presentation and/or Action on Appropriation Year 2013 Third Quarter Operating Statement**

Chip Osborne, Chief Financial Officer, presented the 3rd Quarter Operating Statement for FY 2013, which was previously provided to Commissioners. Mr. Osborne noted that TVC is currently financially sound and budgets were on track.

No motion to approve needed.

**XVII. Report, Presentation and/or Action on Fiscal Year 2014 Operating Budget**

Chip Osborne, Chief Financial Officer, presented the 2014 Operating Budget for FY 2014, which was previously provided to Commissioners.

MOTION: Approve the proposed Operating Budget for Fiscal Year 2014.

MADE BY: Vice Chairman Scott

SECONDED BY: Commissioner Ellzey

ACTION: The motion passed unanimously.

**XVIII. Report, Presentation and/or Action regarding an increase in the salary of the Executive Director as provided by the 2014-2015 General Appropriations Act**

Chip Osborne, Chief Financial Officer, reported on the increase in the salary of the Executive Director, which was previously provided to Commissioners.

MOTION: Approve the increase to the Executive Director's salary.

MADE BY: Commissioner Ellzey

SECONDED BY: Secretary McLeon

ACTION: The motion passed unanimously.

**XIX. Report, Presentation and/or Action regarding Housing4TexasHeroes**

Kathy Wood provided an update on the Housing4TexasHeroes program, which was previously provided to Commissioners. The Commission was asked to approve H4TXH funding to be applied to home modifications only, starting with the next grant period.

MOTION: Approve H4TXH funding to be applied to home modifications

only, starting with the next grant period.

MADE BY: Vice Chairman Scott

SECONDED BY: Commissioner Ellzey

ACTION: The motion passed unanimously.

**XX. Report, Presentation and/or Action regarding Internal Audit of Human Resources Systems Controls**

Russell Gregorczyk, TVC Internal Auditor, presented the draft of the Internal Audit Report on Human Resources Systems and Controls which was previously provided to Commissioners.

MOTION: Approve the Draft of the Internal Audit Report on Human Resources Systems and Controls

MADE BY: Vice Chairman Scott

SECONDED BY: Commissioner Ellzey

ACTION: The motion passed unanimously.

**XXI. Report, Presentation and/or Action regarding Follow-up Review of the Status of Implementing Prior Years' Internal Audit Recommendations**

Russell Gregorczyk, TVC Internal Auditor, presented the final draft report of the Follow-Up Review of the Status of Implementing Prior Years' Internal Audit Recommendations which was previously provided to Commissioners.

No motion to approve needed.

**XXII. Report, Presentation and/or Action regarding selection of Internal Auditor**

Chip Osborne, Chief Financial Officer, presented the report regarding the selection of Internal Auditor which was previously provided to Commissioners.

MOTION: Approve the recommended selection of Internal Auditor

MADE BY: Vice Chairman Scott

SECONDED BY: Secretary McLeon

ACTION: The motion passed unanimously.

**XXIII. Discussion to set date, time, and location of next Commission meeting**

Chairman Cantu noted that the next meeting will be on Wednesday, November 13, 2013 at 9:00 a.m., SFA Building, Room 170. He also noted that the proposed dates for the rest of FY 2014 are:

February 5, 2014  
May 7, 2014  
August 6, 2014

**XXIV. Executive Session**

No executive session was held.

**XXV. Discuss and take Possible Action on the Items considered in Executive Session**

None.

**XXVI. Adjournment**

The Commissioners extended their gratitude to staff for all their support and hard work in serving our Texas veterans.

Chairman Cantu adjourned the meeting at 11:21 a.m.

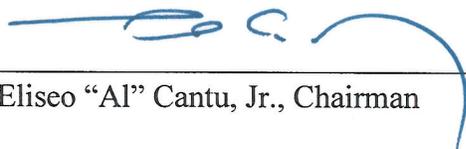
MOTION: Adjourn

MADE BY: Commissioner Ellzey

SECONDED BY: Commissioner Moran

ACTION: The motion passed unanimously.

Minutes Approved by:



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Eliseo "Al" Cantu, Jr., Chairman

**TEXAS VETERANS COMMISSION**  
4th Quarterly Commission Meeting  
FY 2013 – August 7, 2013  
9:00 a.m. – Stephen F. Austin Building -- Room 170  
Speakers & Visitors

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**James Cunningham**  
Chair, Communications Advisory Committee

**Jimmy DeFoor**  
Chair, Veterans County Service Officer Advisory Committee

**John McKinny**  
Member, Veterans Employment & Training Advisory Committee

**David Allan Smith**  
Former member, Fund for Veterans' Assistance Advisory Committee

**Russell Gregorczyk**  
CPA – Jansen & Gregorczyk  
TVC – Internal Auditor

**Shana Joyce**  
Office of the Governor

**Dwight Clark**  
House Committee on Defense and Veterans Affairs

**Patty Featherston**  
Legislative Budget Board

**Chase Kronzel**  
Legislative Budget Board

**Bill Wilson**  
Committee Director  
Senate Committee on Veteran Affairs & Military Installations